



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Park man indicted for robbing Hitterdal bank

A 21-year-old Lake Park man was indicted Nov. 7 by a federal grand jury with one count of bank robbery in connection with the holdup of a Hitterdal bank.

According to the indictment, Matthew Curtis Pederson on Sept. 26, 2007, took money belonging to the State Bank of Lake Park in Hitterdal by force, violence and intimidation of a bank teller.

If convicted, Pederson faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Moorhead Police Department and the Clay County Sheriff's Office. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Newberry.

-30-

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.